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DIVERSIFICATION OF THE FORM AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY AND ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

Report by the Executive Secretary

ECE activities to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy have three major characteristics:

- these activities are demand-driven and the increasing number of requests for workshops, seminars and advisory services reflect both the need for and the usefulness of this aspect of ECE work.
- the assistance provided to countries in transition draws from the knowledge base and experience which ECE has accumulated through its regular activities in the fields of conventions, norms, standards, policy guidelines, statistics and economic analysis. Its central aim is to enable countries in transition to use fully and benefit from these integration tools developed by ECE.
- ECE focuses its operational work on the upstream technical cooperation activities and therefore it should further seek for synergies with other institutions which have complementary roles in the same fields of cooperation.

In view of the growing number of requests from individual countries, subregional groupings or special initiatives, and the shortage of funds to respond to these requests, there is a need to explore possibilities of additional financing, along the lines delineated in para. 52 below.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The countries in transition of central and eastern Europe have made considerable progress in integrating their economies into the global market economy and the European economy by adopting market economy legislation, standards, pricing policies and privatization. It is estimated that the non-State sector's share in GDP already exceeds 50% in most of eastern Europe as compared to less than 5% in 1989. Their international links have been further strengthened by an inflow of foreign direct portfolio investments. Many new market institutions have been established, such as stock exchanges, monetary and credit instruments, and related legislation. Some policy obstacles to the restructuring of State enterprises, rehabilitation of existing plants, distribution of income and wealth, an efficient economic governance, etc. are still factors slowing the progress of reforms. There is still a growing demand for the assistance provided by the UN system.

2. The report prepared by ECE for the 51st session of the General Assembly on The integration of the economies in transition into the world economy presents the work of the UN system in providing assistance to the countries in transition, including the activities of the regional commissions.

3. The regional commissions play an important role in bringing the work of the United Nations closer to the specific development situation and concerns of countries within their respective regions. This primarily includes substantive analytical and policy-oriented work and assisting countries in the implementation and monitoring of major policies, conventions and norms adopted at the regional level. It also provides technical support to programme and project formulation at the country and sub-regional levels.

4. The present report, prepared in response to decision C (51) on diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy, summarizes new developments since the last session of the Commission. The report is divided into two parts: the first deals with the diversification of forms and methods of the assistance provided the second is devoted to the ECE Advisory Services Programme (RASP).

I. DIVERSIFICATION OF THE FORMS AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

Workshops

5. Decision C (51) confirms the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars on subjects of practical importance to countries in transition in the ECE region, and invites member States and international organizations to continue and increase their support for the ECE workshops series.

6. Since the programme began in May 1990, a total of 245 workshops as of April 1997 have been held within the Commission's activities designed to

assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy.

7. From the end of April 1996 to the end of April 1997, 48 workshops have been organized or are planned, of which 18 relate to energy, 11 to environment, 5 to statistics, 3 to industrial development, 3 to trade, 3 to economic analysis and population, 2 to human settlements, 2 to timber, and one to transport. This represents an increase of 33% over the previous period (36 held between 1 April 1995 and 31 March 1996).

8. 30 other workshops are planned to be held by the end of 1997. The updated list of ECE workshops may be obtained from the secretariat.

9. It should be stressed that 14 countries in transition hosted and financed a workshop, as well as 9 market economy countries. One workshop was held in a developing country. Compared to the previous period, the number of host countries has increased from 21 to 24.

10. The participation and cooperation in and support to ECE workshops by donors as well as by the UN system and international institutions, European Union, World Bank, EBRD and IFC continued throughout the reporting period.

11. The demand-driven self-financed series of ECE workshops remains the most salient feature of ECE assistance to economies in transition. It provides an open and flexible forum for interested countries to discuss the different aspects of transition in very technical terms with an explicit training component. The value of in-kind contributions of professional expertise mobilized by ECE, if properly costed, would amount to hundreds of thousands of US dollars.

Training Programmes

12. The process of consultations with training institutions has continued so as to assess the possibilities of improving the ECE role in human resource development. Cooperation with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) has been accepted in principle but postponed due to financial constraints of both institutions.

13. Additional consultations were held with the European Training Foundation which expressed interest in starting cooperation with ECE. However, at this stage the Foundation work is centred on the EU Tempus Programme i.e. cooperation in higher education with universities in countries in transition with emphasis on development of curricula.

14. Cooperation with the ILO/Turin Centre has been strengthened. ECE participated in the Workshop on "Management of Field Coordination for Senior Un System Representatives" held in Turin in December 1996 and devoted to transition countries in the ECE region. It provided an opportunity to present the ECE programme of assistance to economies in transition.

15. The establishment of the UN Staff College was announced in 1996, operating as a project initially for a five year period within the framework of the ILO/Turin Centre. The ECE was asked to participate in the Expert Group of the Staff College which developed an expanded programme in support of economic and social development, development management and development studies. The Expert Group designed this programme area which has three components: (1) programme in support of follow-up to global summits and global agendas, (2) an expanded programme in support of national capacity building and development management, and (3) development studies programme.

Foreign Investment Promotion

16. In response to operative paragraph 6 of decision C (51), consultations were held with the World Bank, OECD and UNCTAD related to data collection and sharing on foreign direct investment. The forty-fifth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade decided to discontinue ECE collection of statistics on foreign direct investment in countries with economies in transition. Discussions are being held on the transfer to UNCTAD of the existing ECE database.

17. Work related to investment promotion has been intensified in response to decision C (51). A Forum on the prospects for promoting foreign direct investment in transition economies will be held in Geneva in June 1997 in cooperation with FIAS of the World Bank. Substantive involvement of the World Bank and other international organizations, as well as the private sector, is expected in the follow-up activities. The World Bank will commission a study on investment promotion techniques in the region for this event.

18. The UN/ECE BOT Expert Group was established following the UN/ECE Forum on "Attracting Investment to Large Scale Infrastructure Projects in the countries of central and eastern Europe and CIS" held in Geneva in November 1995, and in response to great demand from the Governments of transition economies for advice on attracting investment in infrastructure. The Group has grown to over 40 members, not including many observers, drawn from international banks, construction, energy, water, telecom companies, law firms and universities and business schools. Experts from EBRD, UNIDO and UNCTAD are active participants. Amongst the international law firms represented are: Baker & Mckenzie; Wilde Sapte; Clifford Chance; Nabaro Nathanson and Coudert Brothers. The members of the Group contribute their time and effort on a voluntary basis. There is no direct commercial interest in the private sector's involvement in the Group. The representatives of the companies fully recognize that a consultative, bridge-building process is required between the private sector and Governments before BOT deals can be successfully concluded. Although it is delinked from their commercial interest, the activity is mutually beneficial to the private sector and member Governments. The activities of the Group included ten meetings, not including subgroup meetings, consultations with governments, cooperation with international institutions and public information activities. In view of the increasing demand it is expected that its activity will continue to grow.

19. Under the auspices of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industsry, work on the Guide on best investment practices is

being developed so as to be used by the policy-makers in economies in transition.

20. In November 1996, a seminar on the Role of Foreign Direct Investment in the Gas Industry was organized in Tunis by the Gas Centre. It reviewed the financing needs related to gas projects in countries in transition and southern Mediterranean countries and discussed ways to attract foreign investors.

Technical cooperation programmes and projects

21. ECE Divisions have developed some technical cooperation programmes and projects, mainly to strengthen their regular programme activities in countries in transition.

22. In the field of population, activities were continued on three projects financed by UNFPA i.e. Population Ageing (PER/92/PO2), Fertility and Family Surveys (RER/92/PO3) and International Migration (PER/92/PO1). A fourth project on Follow-up to ICPD (RER/96/PO5) was initiated in 1996 to assist transition countries in the implementation of the ICPD programme of action.

23. The regional programme in the field of statistics "Support for Development of Social Statistics" (RER/93/019) emphasized household surveys, including labour force surveys, population census, administrative statistics for social policy, information technology and dissemination of social statistics. The first stage of the project has been concluded. It is likely to continue under the sixth UNDP programming cycle.

24. The ECE has been asked to execute a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop the statistical services of the entities and of the Bosnian Government. UNDP aims to have a project document agreed by the Bosnian authorities early in 1997. The ECE has drafted a programme of work and has entered into negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The work is being coordinated with the European Union, IMF and other potential donors.

25. UNFPA and ECE are embarking on a campaign to raise the necessary finance to undertake population censuses at the turn of the millennium in the newly independent States and some other countries in transition in the ECE region. All countries need censuses as an information base, but newly independent States, with their vast changes in migration and fertility, need them most of all and have few resources and little experience upon which to call.

26. In the field of environment, programmes on the monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers are being developed which include eight transboundary river basins. ECE countries contribute to the Danube Recovery Programme in close cooperation with the Danube Convention Secretariat.

27. National capacity strengthening included support given to the Regional Coordinating Centres for Prevention of Industrial Accidents in Budapest and Warsaw.

28. Consultations are being held with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Eastern Europe and CIS to develop a regional programme based on the Environment for Europe process and to use ECE conventions in several future environmental programmes in the region.

29. In the framework of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, two funding proposals submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) totalling approximately US$ 6 million were approved by GEF for the cities of Vladimir (Russian Federation) and Gabrovo (Bulgaria). A financial contribution from the World Bank was secured for energy efficiency demonstration zones. Two new donors provided contributions to the Project which entered the last year of its second 3-year phase.

30. The technical cooperation programme "Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition - Gas Centre" is currently supported by 22 public and private companies Bulgaria (Bulgargas), Croatia (INA), Czech Republic (CPP), France (Gaz de France), Germany (BGW, Ruhrgas, Wintershall), Hungary (MOL), Italy (ENI, SNAM), Netherlands (Gasunie), Poland (POGS), Romania (Romgaz), Russian Federation (Gazprom), Slovakia (SPP), Switzerland (SGS), Tunisia (STEG), Ukraine (Ukrgazprom), United Kingdom (British Gas), United States of America (Enron, Tenneco Gas Int./El Paso).

31. The programme of seminars and conferences has continued to focus on gas industry policy issues, reform and restructuring, legal and regulatory measures, rate-making, contracting, financial aspects and investment in transition countries.

32. Two other priorities were defined in 1996: (i) the development of a training manual designed to transfer knowledge on gas pricing issues and rate-making to countries in transition as quickly and as broadly as possible; a textbook in this respect was prepared in 1996 and the training manual itself will be published in 1997; (ii) the development of a database on key aspects of a market-based gas industry, which will cover all major gas markets in the ECE region; a CD-Rom will be produced in June 1997.

33. A number of governments and companies pledged financial and in-kind support to the Clean Coal programme. However, more commitments will have to be secured if this programme is to be successfully implemented.

34. A project has been launched to attract external resources for an assessment of best practices regarding investment promotion and enterprise development. The World Bank will assist this and related projects by mid 1997.

35. The joint ECE-FAO Forest Resource Assessment Project will use a combination of regular budget and external resources. Another project in the timber sector being developed at present is designed to promote access to trade finance and investment in the sector in the Russian Federation.

36. In the field of industry a pilot project was developed demonstrating environmental clean-up of seven selected sites polluted by chemicals in Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Belarus, Latvia and Slovakia.

37. The two transport projects on the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) continued as scheduled and they provide continuous support to the ECE regular work programme in the field of transport.

Reconstruction of war-torn areas

38. Assistance to war-torn areas requires a coordinated effort by the UN System, World Bank, IMF and OECD. ECE has continued cooperation with the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) which reached agreement on a set of fundamental principles that should guide operational action in countries experiencing crisis. The strategic framework for recovery will be set up soon to which ECE could contribute, according to the inputs provided for the publication on UN capacities to assist war-torn areas.

39. During the reporting period the ECE organized two advisory and one technical mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina related to statistics, transport and gas. Assistance was provided to Croatia in formulating national strategy for sustainable environmental development. Advisory missions to Tajikistan were also conducted.

Trust Fund on Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT)

40. ECE/TFACT is a channel for receiving voluntary contributions by governments, international organizations, the business community and other interested donors aimed at assisting countries in transition. It is used to cover the costs of participation of experts from CITs in ECE workshops and expert group meetings.

41. As of 31 December 1996 the net unencumbered balance excluding programme support costs, mandatory operating reserve and interest, amounted to US$ 223,783. This amount has been earmarked by the donors for specific activities in priority areas, in particular environment, transport and trade facilitation.

Cooperation with the European Union

42. Relations with the European Commission continued to be strengthened following the visit of the Executive Secretary and missions of the Director of the Trade Division (the focal point for the contacts). There are regular consultations between the officials of the two institutions and cooperation is expanding (see document E/ECE/1349, paragraph 7).

43. The project proposal Protection and Management of Transboundary Waters Training Programmes, which involves Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation, was submitted to the European Union. It was formally approved by the relevant ministries of the five countries. The first phase of

the programme concerning transboundary waters shared by Latvia-Lithuania has been approved by PHARE. Approval by TACIS is still pending.

44. The on-going cooperation with the European Commission SAVE Programme continued in the form of the joint project with Energy Efficiency 2000. The work is focused on standards for domestic appliances and labelling schemes. The European Commission continued to provide support to the case project in Poland related to the implementation of the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Cooperation with the UN system

45. The UN operational activities are coordinated through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) at which ECE is regularly represented. The issues considered referred to cooperation with UNDP and the role and functioning of the resident coordination system which should also support ECE advisory services, training, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, monitoring and evaluation.

46. Particular attention was given to the cooperation with UNDP, as it refers to the preparation for the 6th UNDP Programming Cycle which will include numerous changes i.e. shortening of the cycle to a three year period, greater coordination between the regional cooperation framework, country strategy notes and country programming frameworks, access by regional commissions and smaller technical agencies to new programme support facilities, as well as co-financing and cooperation among different donors.

47. The annual meeting of Resident Coordinators in the region, held in Bratislava in June 1996, was attended by the ECE so as to publicize and reinforce its operational activities within the region. In strictly operational terms, ECE will focus its work on the "upstream" technical cooperation activities using the newly established UNDP facility in support of project and programme development.

Future orientation of ECE assistance to CITs

48. In accordance with Assembly resolution 50/120 the Secretary General is preparing the report for the substantive session of ECOSOC in 1997 dealing, inter alia, with regional and sub-regional coordination. It is expected that the 1997 ECOSOC session will provide some new guidelines on the future role of the regional commissions in providing assistance to their member States.

49. The ECE intends to continue its present practice of acting catalytically to assist the recipient countries in their efforts to integrate into the European and world economy by using the knowledge base and experiences from its regular programme of work. The cooperation and networking with the UN system, European Union, other international organizations, financial institutions, sub-regional groupings and interested donors, including the business community, should be further strengthened, particularly through the newly established ECE Coordination Unit for Operational Activities.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ADVISERS

50. In response to decision C (51), the second part of this report outlines the situation of the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programmes (RASP): its strength, problems encountered in terms of financing, past achievements and orientations for the future.

Strength of RASP

51. The strength of the RASP arises from the integration of the Regional Advisers into the work of the ECE Divisions. As technical experts, the Advisers are in a position to provide support to countries in transition on the wide range of conventions, norms, standards and other regular activities of the ECE. This support is demand-driven. It enables the requesting countries or groups of countries to participate effectively in, and benefit from, these activities, thereby facilitating their economic integration into the regional and global economy.

Financing of RASP activities

52. RASP activities are limited by the precarious financial situation of the Programme. Section 20 funds are not sufficient to respond to the needs for advisory services, as expressed by countries in transition, subregional groupings or within the framework of special initiatives. In line with decision C (51), requests to increase this budget line have been addressed to New York but they have not been answered favourably, either for 1997 or for the next biennium. Furthermore, the level of extrabudgetary funds provided by member States for technical assistance activities has remained at a low level. This situation, which could be easily explained in the past, appears to be strange now, epecially as compared to other regional commissions which have significant advisory programmes and also to UNCTAD which receives funds for assistance to countries in transition.

Matters calling for the attention of the Commission

53. In view of both the recognized usefulness of RASP and the resource constraints affecting the Programme, the Commission may wish to consider the following issues:

(a) Possibilities of increasing extra-budgetary funds for the RASP, which would be provided by donor countries or financial institutions. In particular, the Commission may wish to consider holding a special meeting of representatives from development assistance agencies of ECE member States which are currently principal donors to the countries in transition, for a brainstorming on ways to provide supplementary funding to the RASP. A trust fund or frame agreements established between these agencies and the RASP on the design and execution of bilateral agreements are examples of arrangements which could extend the benefits of ECE expertise to the maximum of member States requesting technical assistance.

(b) Possibilities for the RASP to be further involved in project formulation. Various forms of partnership could be developed with funding institutions and implementing agencies, the advisory services assisting the latter in the design of the technical, legal and policy framework for projects falling within the ECE fields of expertise.

(c) Ways to respond to requests coming from sub-regional groupings or generated by special initiatives. Subregional groupings have a small secretariat and, therefore, welcome the technical assistance which the RASP can provide. Special initiatives, which have no secretariat, also need technical assistance which enable them to use the tools of integration developed by the ECE. In both cases, this leads to increasing requests and various forms of co-financing could be explored in this respect.

Highlights of 1996 activities

54. As in previous years, the Regional Advisers have provided assistance for the following types of activity: (i) implementation of conventions, norms, standards; (ii) formulation of policy guidelines for economic restructuring and the development of market institutions and the private sector; (iii) capacity building and human resource development in technical fields; (iv) formulation of national or multi-country projects.

55. The advisory services have taken the form of consultations with national experts and policy makers in individual countries, organization of seminars and workshops at the national or subregional level, preparation of project outlines, contribution to intergovernmental meetings convened by ECE bodies as well as to meetings organized by other institutions in similar fields.

56. In 1996, 64 advisory missions, out of 88, were carried out in countries in transition. CIS countries accounted for 37 missions. Missions to developed market economies were organized for resource-raising purposes and for contributing to international conferences on development and transition issues.

57. The salient features of the RASP activities for the reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) Particular attention has been given to private sector development and better integration in the regional economy through, inter alia, trade facilitation, investment promotion and support to entrepreneurship;

(b) Demand for assistance was not only geared to national development and international cooperation, but also to cooperation among neighbouring regions belonging to different countries;

(c) In CIS countries, the emphasis has been put on national issues while in countries of central and eastern Europe, which have better access to the major technical assistance programmes of the European Union, the assistance has shifted in the direction of multi-country projects;

(d) The RASP has continued to provide assistance to the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Working contacts with the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have been maintained along the lines of the Cooperation Agreement between the two secretariats, concluded in 1996;

(e) Regional Advisers have been involved into two major initiatives: (i) they have prepared a series of project outlines for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), launched in December 1996 to enhance regional stability through the development of economic, environmental and transborder cooperation; (ii) together with their counterpart in ESCAP, they have initiated a Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), aimed at maximizing the benefits which this subregion can obtain from the expertise of the two Commissions. Close collaboration is being sought with UNDP at all stages of the programming and implementation of SPECA projects;

(f) Close working relations on development projects and technical assistance have been pursued with other UN institutions as well as with the European Commission, OSCE, OECD, World Bank, Council of Europe, EBRD and WTO.

58. The above-mentioned features of RASP activities are illustrated by the tables annexed to this note. Annex I outlines the advisory missions of the Regional Advisers. Annex II takes up the main activities carried out by RASP within the ECE framework. Annex III specifies the activities carried out or envisaged with subregional groupings and special initiatives. Annex IV gives an account of the contributions of the RASP to activities organized by other institutions.

Future work orientations

59. The RASP will continue to follow the above-mentioned work orientations in order to respond to the specific needs and priorities of countries in transition in all the strategic areas of work of the Commission, as defined in the ECE reform.

60. The Regional Advisers will structure their assistance in such a way as to secure tangible and useful achievements, coherence and synergy effects between their advisory missions and projects. The closest cooperation will be sought with other actors in the region, which aim at enhancing economic and environmental cooperation.

61. In particular relationships with the business community will be strengthened within a transparent framework and in compliance with the principles of neutrality and objectivity. Upon specific request, the Regional Advisers will advise on establishing business cooperation contacts, on project preparation for submission to international financing organizations and on the preparation of business plans for specific projects. For this purpose the networking and cooperation with other international, regional, governmental, non-governmental organizations, banks, business associations and specific enterprises will be intensified.

ANNEX I

ADVISORY MISSIONS OF THE RASP SINCE APRIL 1996

Areas of activities of Regional Advisers	**Division**	**Countries visited with advisory missions**
Transport	Transport	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Czech Republic(2), Georgia (2), Hungary, Italy, Poland (2), Republic of Moldova, Romania (2), Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Environment	Environment	Croatia (2), Czech Republic, Germany, Kazakstan, Netherlands (2), Poland, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Trade	Trade	Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Thailand, United Kingdom (2), United States (2)
Trade Facilitation	Trade	Armenia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kazakstan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, United Kingdom
Energy	Energy	Belarus (4), Finland, France, Norway, Russian Federation (6), Switzerland, Ukraine
Industry and Technology	Industry and Technology	Austria, Hungary (3), Latvia, Russian Federation (2), Slovenia, United States
Development Issues and Policies	Office of the Executive Secretary	Germany, Kazakstan, Russian Federation (3), Tajikistan (2)

ANNEX II

RASP ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECE

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION	. Private investment in infrastructure	Consultative meeting between ECE BOT group and Hungarian Government, September 1996.	Hungary
	. Building negotiations skills for BOT	Preparation of a Platform for Negotiations and organization of a workshop in Croatia.	Croatia
	. Investors' Guides	Preparation and dissemination, through Internet, of computerized versions of these guides	Georgia; Republic of Moldova; Tajikistan (under preparation); Republic of Tatarstan and the Region of Krasnoyarsk in the Russian Federation (under preparation).
	. Creating viable real estate markets	Contribution to a seminar organized under the aegis of W.P5 (Geneva, June 1996).	Central and east European, CIS countries
	. Export Finance Support	Contribution to a Consultation meeting organized jointly between ECE and ITC (Geneva, October 1996)	Central and east European, CIS countries.

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRADE FACILITATION	. Trade Facilitation standards in international transactions	Dissemination of these standards.	Global via Internet; particular attention to countries in transition.
	. Trade Facilitation Information Exchange (TRAFIX)	Network on Internet, jointly developed with ESCAP and several other trade facilitation bodies	Global via Internet; particular attention to countries in transition.
	. UN/EDIFACT	2 workshops jointly organized with ESCAP (Moscow and Yerevan, October 1996)	Russian Federation and Armenia
SMEs DEVELOPMENT	. Programme for the development of SMEs	Networking of National SME focal points; collection of information on SME legislation and statistics; guides on business plan preparation; guide on financing of SME creation.	Countries in transition
		Training course on business planning (Moscow, May 1996)	Russian Federation
	. Promotion of entrepreneurship	Seminar on women in business, jointly with UNIDO (Moscow, April 1996)	Russian Federation
		Workshop on cross-border cooperation in the Carpathian Euro-region (Debrecen, Hungary, November 1996)	Regions of Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia and Poland

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRANSPORT	. Transport infrastructure development	Contribution to Working Party on Road Transport sessions on road infrastructure issues; contribution to Working Party on Rail Transport session on rail infrastructure issues; contribution to Inland Transport Committee on transport infrastructure developments; organization of and contribution to rail, road and financing workshops and seminars. Training workshop on	Central and east European countries Member countries of central asia
ENVIRONMENT	. Management of transboundary waters . Significance and implementation of ECE environmental conventions in Central Asian Republics	Multicountry project Training workshop (Almaty, Kazakstan, December 1996)	Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Azerbaijan

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
ENERGY	. Financial schemes for energy projects	Seminar (Paris, March 1996)	CIS countries
	. Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones	Projects, workshops	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russian Federation, Ukraine
	. Promotion of energy efficiency related trade and investment	Programmes of training courses; workshops; studies; manuals; guides to investors.	Belarus, Russian Federation
		Data collection on market research; energy information, laws, norms and regulations	Countries in transition
	. Conversion of military sites to the production of energy-saving devices	Manual and training courses	Belarus
	. Project "Present situation and prospects for the fuel and energy complex in CIS for the identification of technical assistance requirements in the energy field"	A study	CIS countries, ECE region

ANNEX III

RASP ACTIVITES FOR SUBEGIONAL GROUPINGS AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS/ SPECIAL INITIATIVES	ACTIVITIES	COVERAGE
Black Sea Economic Cooperation	Implementation of transport facilitation conventions; study on energy situation in the BSEC region.	BSEC member countries
Central European Initiative (CEI)	Meeting of ministers responsible for SMEs; transport infrastucture development activities.	CEI members countries
Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI)	Transport infrastructure - identification of bottlenecks along main international corridors; energy efficiency demonstration zones network; interconnection of natural gas networks; policies to promote SMEs through microcredit and credit guarantee schemes; Danube recovery programme; trade facilitation - actions to overcome operational difficulties.	SECI participating countries
Joint ECE/ESCAP Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)	Provisionally foreseen activites: Promoting interregional cooperation within the regions of ECE and ESCAP; transport infrastructure development and coordination; SME development; conversion of military enterprises; promotion of foreign direct investment; energy industry restructuring, market adaptation and energy efficiency demonstration zones; trade facilitation; environmental legislation and management of transborder water system.	ECE member countries of Central Asia

ANNEX IV

RASP CONTRIBUTION TO ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION		
International Conference "Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe" (Dortmund, Germany, June 1996)	Council of Europe, City of Dortmund, Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (Geneva)	Council of Europe and ECE member countries and their regions
International Conference "Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe for Economic Cooperation, Security and Sustainable Development" (Moscow, November 1996)	Government and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Government of Moscow, Council of Europe, Economic Forum of the Regions (Moscow) and Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (Geneva)	Council of Europe and ECE member countries and their regions
INVESTMENT PROMOTION		
International Investment Conference (Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation)	Administration of Krasnoyarsk Region, Russian Federation	Region of Krasnoyarsk
International Forum on Building an Investment Promotion Capability in Transition Economies (Washington D.C., USA, June 1996)	FIAS of the World Bank	Countries in transition

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
TRADE FACILITATION		
Participation in the first ministerial conference (Singapore, November 1996); included informal discussions on future WTO study of trade facilitation	WTO	Global
Fourth ESCAP Trade Facilitation Network Meeting (New Delhi, October 1996)	ESCAP	Asian and Pacific countries
SMEs DEVELOPMENT		
Microcredit Summit	"Educational Fund", with the support of the World Bank and UN organizations	Global
Advisory Group Meeting on Entrepreneurship and Small Firms in CITs (Visograd, Hungary, October, 1996)	OECD	Countries in transition
Colloquium on "Promoting SMEs in CEECs" (Visograd, Hungary, November, 1996)	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Regions of central and east European countries
Series of seminars on "The role of SMEs in economy and practical lessons learnt by transition countries in promotion of entrepreneurship" (February 1997, Minsk)	International Finance Corporation	Belarus

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
TRANSPORT		
Series of meetings on the establishment of transport corridors	G-24 of the European Union	Central, east and south European countries
ENVIRONMENT		
Seminar on Promoting Sustainable Environmental Development (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, October 1996)	OSCE	Aral Sea Region
Workshop on Cleaner Production within the Framework of the Congress on Energy and Environment (Opatija, Croatia, October 1996)	University of Rijeka (Croatia) and Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Croatia, Slovenia
ENERGY		
International seminar "Financial schemes for energy project implementation" (Paris, France)	OECD	Global
Congress "Economic Reforms of New Russia: Development of Small and Untraditional Energetics" (Moscow, Russian Federation)	Government of the Russian Federation	Russian Federation